

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2286

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 1178

E.O. 11652; GDS

TAGS: CI, PINS

SUBJECT: CAPTURED MIR MILITANTS CALL FOR END OF RESISTANCE

REF: A. SANTIAGO 7424 (1974); B. SANTIAGO A-251 (1974)

1. SUMMARY: GOC EXHIBITED FOUR MOVEMENT OF REVOLUTIONARY LEFT (MIR) MILITANTS ON NATIONAL RADIO/TV FEB. 19 TO SPEAK OF DESTRUCTION OF MIR AND HOPELESSNESS OF CONTINUED RESISTANCE TO GOVT. "SCORECARD" ISSUED TO PRESS INDICATES MOST OF TOP LEADERSHIP OF MIR DEAD, CAPTURED OR EXILED. GOC UN-RELENTING CAMPAIGN CONTINUES WITH SEIZURE OF ALLEGED MIR PROCESSES, ANOTHER GUNFIGHT IN SANTIAGO, AND FLIGHT INTO EMBASSY ASYLUM OF MORE PURPORTED MIRISTAS. GOC CLAIMS AND OFFERS SIGNIFICANT SECURITY THREAT TO GOC. AS NO OTHER SIGNIFICANT ORGANIZED OPPOSITION TO GOC IS KNOWN TO FAVOR TERRORISTS APPROACH AT THIS TIME, GOC NOW NEEDS TO DECIDE HOW TO ACHIEVE THE OPTIMUM BALANCE BETWEEN TIGHT SECURITY CONTROL OVER SUCH REMAINING OPPONENTS AS THE COMMUNISTS AND CREATION OF A MORE FAVORABLE HUMAN AND POLITICAL RIGHTS IMAGE. END SUMMARY.

2. FOUR ALLEGED MIR MILITANTS, THIRD LEVEL LEADERS OF ORGANIZATION CAPTURED BY SECURITY AUTHORITIES, APPEARED ON  
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NATIONAL RADIO/TV EVENING FEB. 19. THEY SAID THAT AFTER

CAREFUL STUDY OF SITUATION THEY HAD TO CONCLUDE THAT MIR HAS LOST THE FIGHT, THAT THE LEADERSHIP IS REDUCED TO A FEW MEN STRUGGLING TO SURVIVE, AND THAT THE MIR HAS FALLEN INTO COMPLETE DISORGANIZATION. THEY CALLED FOR AN END TO RESISTANCE, WHICH IS ONLY DESTROYING A GENERATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE. MIR HAD TRIED TO GAIN SUPPORT OF A SECTOR OF CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PDC), ELEMENTS OF CATHOLIC CHURCH, AND PARTIES OF NOW-OUTLAWED UNIDAD POPULAR ALLIANCE, ALL WITHOUT SUCCESS. POPULAR SECTORS HAVE REFUSED TO SUPPORT MIR. GOC SECURITY FORCES HAVE HAD GREAT SUCCESS, AND MAJORITY OF MIR ARMS HAVE BEEN CAPTURED. NUMBER OF OTHER POINTS MADE, ALL LEADING TO CONCLUSION THAT CAUSE IS HOPELESS AND THAT RESISTANCE SHOULD CEASE. FINAL CALL WAS FOR RECOGNITION OF DESIRE OF GOC FOR RECONCILIATION AND NATIONAL UNITY.

3. DURING BROADCAST A LISTING OF MIR LEADERSHIP STATUS BY NAME WAS MADE TO INDICATE SAD STATE OF ORGANIZATION. OF 73 LEADERS RANGING FROM CENTRAL COMMITTEE TO "DISTINGUISHED MILITANTS", 15 WERE SAID TO BE DEAD, 8 "FUGITIVES", 23 "EXILED", AND 7 EXPELLED FROM COUNTRY. (THIS LISTING BEING SENT BY POUCH TO ARA/BC).

4. SAME GROUP WAS PRESENTED IN PRESS CONFERENCE FEB. 21. GOC OFFICIALS WITHDREW TO ALLOW MIRISTAS TO "TALK FREELY" TO REPORTERS. THE FOUR ASSERTED THAT THEY HAD NOT RPT NOT BEEN PRESSURED IN ANY WAY TO MAKE EARLIER BROADCAST, NOR PROMISED ANY BENEFITS FOR SO DOING. THEY REPEATED THEIR VIEW THAT FURTHER RESISTANCE BY MIR IS HOPELESS AND ONLY CONDEMNS MEMBERS TO SUFFERING AND DEATH.

5. FURTHER APPARENT EVIDENCE OF GOC SUCCESS IN COMBATTING "EXTREMISTS" WAS GUNFIGHT IN SANTIAGO SUBURB OF LA REINA DURING EARLY EVENING FEB. 19 IN WHICH INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS KILLED ONE MAN AND CAPTURED ANOTHER. TWO ESCAPED. NOR FURTHER DETAILS YET AVAILABLE.

6. BY DECREE FEB. 19, MIN INTERIOR ANNOUNCED SEIZURE OF TWO COMMERCIAL PRINTING PRESSES ALLEGED TO HAVE BEEN PRINTING PROPAGANDA FOR MIR.

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7. SMALL BUT STEADY FLOW OF ASYLEES INTO SANTIAGO EMBASSIES CONTINUED WITH ENTRY OVER FEB. 15-16 WEEKEND OF SOME 21 PERSONS, DESCRIBED IN SOME REPORTS AS MIRISTAS INTO ECUADORIAN EMB.

8. FURTHER PROBLEMS FOR EXTREMISTS IN CHILE MAY BE INDICATED BY REPORTED ACTION OF ARGENTINE GOVT. IN ARRESTING IN MENDOZA NINE CHILEANS ACCUSED OF PLOTTING AGAINST GOC AND PLANNING BOMB ATTACKS IN CHILE.

9. COMMENT: WELL-PUBLICIZED CALL FOR END OF MIR RESISTANCE BY ALLEGED MIR LEADERS IS UNDOUBTEDLY PART OF PSYCHOLOGICAL CAMPAIGN OF GOC AIMED AT MIR. BEST EARLIER EXAMPLE OF THIS WAS FAKE LETTER PUBLISHED BY GOC INTELLIGENCE, WHICH PURPORTED TO ANNOUNCE WITHDRAWAL FROM STRUGGLE OF MIR CHIEF ANDRES PASCAL ALLENDE (REF A). HOWEVER, PICTURE DRAWN BY THESE MILITANTS MATCHES IN ALL ESSENTIALS ESTIMATE OF MIR STATUS WHICH WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO MAKE BASED ON ALL SOURCES OF INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO US, AND WHICH WE HAVE EARLIER REPORTED. WE BELIEVE GOC FEELS THAT MIR AND POSSIBLY SOME UNAFFILIATED INDIVIDUALS ARE STILL CAPABLE OF ISOLATED TERRORIST ACTS. BUT FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES MIR IS IMPOTENT. THERE IS TODAY NO RPT NO SIGNIFICANT AND ORGANIZED OPPOSITION IN CHILE TO THE GOC WHICH ENDORSES USE OF TERRORIST METHODS.

10. QUESTION ARISES AS TO WHAT GOC WILL DO WITH ITS "VICTORY". THERE ARE REPORTS THAT GOC'S LARGE AND ACTIVE INTELLIGENCE/SECURITY APPARATUS IS TURNING ITS ATTENTION TO OTHER OUTLAWED ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS COMMUNISTS PART (PCCH), ALTHOUGH THROUGH PENETRATIONS AND SURVEILLANCE RATHER THAN PHYSICAL DESTRUCTION. THERE IS AMPLE EVIDENCE THAT DETENTION AND INTERROGATIONS OF LARGE NUMBERS OF PERSONS EVEN SUSPECTED OF LINKS WITH MORE EXTREME LEFT CONTINUE.

11. ON OTHER HAND, RUMORS ABOUND THAT SECURITY MEASURES WILL BE MODERATED IN MONTHS TO COME, WITH POSSIBLE REDUCTION IN DEGREE OF STATE OF SIEGE, SHORTENING OR ELIMINATION OF CURFEW, ETC. GOC IS ALSO ATTEMPTING TO END ITS "POLITICAL PRISONER" IMAGE PROBLEM BY EXILING LARGE NUMBERS OF PERSONS WHO CERTAINLY INCLUDE SOME WHO WERE AND REMAIN MILITANT OPPONENTS OF REGIME.

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12. IT WILL BE SOMEWHAT MORE DIFFICULT FOR GOC TO MAINTAIN CRISIS ATMOSPHERE AND JUSTIFY MEASURES APPROPRIATE TO SERIOUS INTERNAL SECURITY PROBLEM WHILE ADVERTISING TO WORLD THAT ONLY OPPOSITION PRESENTLY COMMITTED TO VIOLENT MEANS (MIR) IS VIRTUALLY DESTROYED. IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT THIS DILEMMA IS STIMULATING DISCUSSION IN THE GOC BETWEEN HARDLINERS WHO WANT NO SIGNIFICANT REDUCTION OF SECURITY MEASURES AND MODERATES WHO FEEL SOME REAL RELAXATION IS NOW POSSIBLE AND ADVISABLE.

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